Listing of the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method for enabling a user to configure a communication network in a graphical user interface (GUI) display, comprising:

configuring at least a portion of said communication network in said GUI display, including configuring a plurality of network element icons representing a plurality of network elements and logical connections among said plurality of network elements, including:

selecting a first network element icon of said plurality of network element icons for configuring a first network element of said plurality of network elements, said first network element represented by said first network element icon,

ascertaining a first set of properties associated with said first network element, said first set of properties being displayed in said GUI display and representing properties available for said first network element in said communication network,

associating a subset of said first set of properties with said first network element icon, thereby causing said subset of said first set of properties to also be associated with said first network element, said associating a subset of said first set of properties performed by said user, and

displaying at least one visual indicator in said GUI display, said at least one visual indicator being displayed in a visually connected manner with said first network element icon, said at least one visual indicator visually indicating in said

GUI display that said subset of said first set of properties is being associated with said first network element in said communication network.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one visual indicator includes a visual icon other than said first network element icon.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one visual indicator includes a different color for said first network element icon[[.]] said different color being different from a default color that exists if said first set of properties is not associated with said first network element in said communication network.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one visual indicator includes a different shading for said first network element icon, said different shading being different from a default shading that exists if said first set of properties is not associated with said first network element in said communication network.[[.]]

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one visual indicator includes a different background color for said first network element icon, said different background color being different from a default background color that exists if said first set of properties is not associated with said first network element in said communication network.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one visual indicator includes

textual information pertaining to said first network element icon, said textual information being different from textual information, if any, that exists if said first set of properties is not associated with said first network element in said communication network.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one visual indicator includes a different texture for said first network element icon, said texture being different from a default texture that exists if said first set of properties is not associated with said first network element in said communication network.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one visual indicator represents a different shape for said first network element icon, said different shape being different from a default shape that is displayed if said first set of properties is not associated with said first network element in said communication network.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one visual indicator represents a different size for said first network element icon, said different size being different from a default size that is displayed if said first set of properties is not associated with said first network element in said communication network.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first network element is one of a server, a subnet, a firewall, a VPN and a load balancer.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said configuring said plurality of network element icons further including

selecting a second network element icon of said plurality of network element icons for configuring a second network element of said plurality of network elements, said second network element represented by said second network element icon,

ascertaining a second set of properties associated with said second network element, said second set of properties being displayed in said GUI display and representing properties available for said second network element in said communication network,

associating a subset of said second set of properties with said second network element icon, , thereby causing said subset of said second set of properties to also be associated with said second network element, said associating said subset of said second set of properties performed by said user, and

displaying at least another visual indicator in said GUI display, said at least another visual indicator being displayed in a visually connected manner with said second network element icon, said at least another visual indicator visually indicating in said GUI display that said subset of said second set of properties being is associated with said second network element in said communication network.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said communication network represents a logical network constructed from a common pool of network elements.

13. (Currently amended) A method for displaying enabling a user to configure a communication network in a graphical user interface (GUI) display, comprising:

selecting a first network element icon of [[said]] a plurality of network element icons for configuring a first network element of said plurality of network elements, said first network element represented by said first network element icon,

ascertaining a first set of properties associated with said first network element, said first set of properties being displayed in said GUI display and representing properties available for said first network element in said communication network,

associating a subset of said first set of properties with said first network element icon, , thereby causing said subset of said first set of properties to also be associated with said first network element, said associating a subset of said first set of properties performed by said user,

displaying at least one visual indicator in said GUI display, said at least one visual indicator being displayed in a visually connected manner with said first network element icon, said at least one visual indicator visually indicating in said GUI display that said subset of said first set of properties being associated with said first network element in said communication network,

selecting a second network element icon of said plurality of network element icons for configuring a second network element of said plurality of network elements, said second network element represented by said second network element icon, ascertaining a second set of properties associated with said second network element, said second set of properties being displayed in said GUI display and representing properties available for said second network element in said communication network,

associating a subset of said second set of properties with said second network element icon, thereby causing said subset of said second set of properties to also be associated with said second network element, said associating said subset of said second set of properties performed by said user, and

displaying at least another visual indicator in said GUI display, said at least another visual indicator being displayed in a visually connected manner with said second network element icon, said at least another visual indicator visually indicating in said GUI display that said subset of said second set of properties being associated with said second network element in said communication network, said at least another visual indicator being displayed simultaneously with said at least one visual indicator in said GUI display.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein said at least one visual indicator includes a visual icon other than said first network element icon.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein said visually indicating that said first set of properties is associated with said first network element and said visually indicating said second set of properties is associated with said second network element in said communication network occur in the same window of said GUI display.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said at least one visual indicator includes a visual icon other than said first network element icon.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein said at least one visual indicator includes a different color for said first network element icon[[.]] said different color being different from a default color that exists if said first set of properties is not associated with said first network element in said communication network.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein said at least one visual indicator includes a different shading for said first network element icon, said different shading being different from a default shading that exists if said first set of properties is not associated with said first network element in said communication network.[[.]]

19. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said at least one visual indicator includes a different background color for said first network element icon, said different background color being different from a default background color that exists if said first set of properties is not associated with said first network element in said communication network.

20. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said at least one visual indicator includes textual information pertaining to said first network element icon, said textual information being different from textual information, if any, that exists if said first set of properties is not associated with said first network element in said communication network.

21. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said at least one visual indicator includes a different texture for said first network element icon, said texture being different from a default texture that exists if said first set of properties is not associated with said first network element in said communication network.

22. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said at least one visual indicator represents a different shape for said first network element icon, said different shape being different from a default shape that is displayed if said first set of properties is not associated with said first network element in said communication network.

23. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said at least one visual indicator represents a different size for said first network element icon, said different size being different from a default size that is displayed if said first set of properties is not associated with said first network element in said communication network.

24. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein each of said first network element and

said second network element is one of a server, a subnet, a firewall, a VPN and a load balancer.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein said communication network represents a logical network constructed from a common pool of network elements.

26-32 (Canceled).